Conference on Disarmament

25 June 2018

Original: English

Note verbale dated 22 June 2018 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic, in its capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament requesting registration of the document entitled "Draft programme of work for the 2018 session", under the symbol (CD/WP.608/Rev.1), as an official document of the 2018 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the United Nations Office in Geneva, the Office of the Director - General and Secretary - General of the Conference on Disarmament, and has the honour to refer to the 2018 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic, acting in its capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament, requests that the document entitled "Draft programme of work for the 2018 session", under the symbol (CD/WP.608/Rev.1), should be registered as an official document of the 2018 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office in Geneva, the Office of the Director-General and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.

GE.18-10361(E)

1810361

Please recycle

Revised Draft

Programme of Work for the 2018 session

Submitted by the President

The Conference on Disarmament,

Cognizant of its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum established by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I), and the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on issues of disarmament,

Mindful of the importance of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work for the Conference which does not prejudice any past, present or future position, proposal or priority of any delegation, nor any commitment undertaken in any other multilateral fora related to disarmament,

In pursuance of its agenda contained in CD/2116,

Taking into account the several proposals tabled since 2000 for the programme of work of the Conference and the interest to see the Conference return to substantive work,

Recalling paragraph 28 of its rules of procedure which calls on the Conference to establish its programme of work on the basis of its agenda, and Noting that it provides its Member States with a platform to engage in negotiations, on the basis of the rule of consensus,

Taking into account the decisions of the conference CD/2119 dated 19 February 2018, and CD/2126 dated 27 March 2018, and the arrangements agreed in these decisions to establish, in accordance with paragraph 23 of the rules of procedures of the Conference, five subsidiary bodies in pursuance of its agenda as contained in the document CD/2116,

Decides:

1. To establish a working group under agenda item 1 entitled "cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" to identify, elaborate and recommend effective measures including legal provisions of multilateral character to take forward nuclear disarmament with the ultimate goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons;

2. To establish a working group under agenda item 1 entitled "cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" to develop proposals for negotiations on a non-discriminatory, internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein; dealing with all questions relevant for this purpose.

3. To establish a Working Group under agenda item 3 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" to develop proposals for negotiations on all issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

4. To establish a Working Group under agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on such effective international arrangements, that could take the form of an international legally binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States (NNWS) against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

5. To establish a Working Group under agenda item 6 entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament" inter alia, to elaborate key elements of an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism as well as item 5 entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such

weapons; radiological weapons", and agenda item 7 entitled "Transparency in armaments", to seek the views of the members of the Conference on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to these items;

6. In accordance with rule 35 of the rules of procedure, the Working Groups shall remain open to all Member States of the Conference on Disarmament and to those non-Member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2018 session.

7. Pursuant to their mandates, the Working Groups shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future.

8. The Working Groups shall present reports to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President of the Conference, on the progress of their work before the conclusion of the current session.

9. The Working Groups shall continue to use the rules of procedures of the Conference *mutadis mutandis*.

10. That the Working Groups may at any time establish sub-Groups when and as required to fulfil their mandate.

11. Should the Conference on Disarmament adopt this decision on a programme of work, all the subsidiary bodies established by decision CD/2119 shall conclude.